

Field Office Wide Project Accomplishments and PAPA project Proposals

2011 Landscape Planning – Resources staff completed significant upland and riparian monitoring this year in priority landscape areas to support future grazing permit renewal planning. Range grazing permit reviews and transportation planning are included in landscape planning efforts

1. Boulder – Data collection complete. Land Health Determinations were issued for allotments within the Boulder Landscape. All sites were all found to not meet air quality standards. Current livestock use was not a causal factor for not achieving the air quality standard. A second scoping meeting was held to address scoping comments and transportation planning issues this spring. The EA is in progress with a estimated completion date of 5/1/13.
2. North LaBarge and Ryegrass – upland Land Heath Assessments were conducted this summer.
3. S. LaBarge – PFC completed in 2012. LHA's scheduled to begin in 2013. Determinations and EA issued for some of the allotments beginning in 2014. Ecological Site Inventory contract awarded and scheduled for spring 2013. Data will be used to support Landscape planning and livestock grazing permit renewals.

Wyoming Range Aspen Regeneration Project -Treated 846 acres of conifer encroached Aspen in the Upper Billies Allotment (north and south of Red Castle Creek) with a prescribed burn this May. Treatment will consist of conifer removal and piling. Piles will be burned when conditions warrant. Due to the Fontenelle Fire burning up approximately 25,000 acres of Lynx Habitat, no WFARP treatments are planned for 2013 at this time. BLM will be completing Endangered Species Act consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for this project.

Muddy Creek Vegetation Treatment - EA and Decision Record signed in September of 2011. 300 acre spike treatment will be conducted in fall of 2012 to improve mule deer habitat. This is the pilot project that will kick off a 10-year habitat improvement plan for the Wyoming Range Deer Herd in the PFO.

Wyoming Range Mule Deer Habitat Improvement Project - In cooperation with Game and Fish, a 10-year 20,000 acre treatment plan has been proposed by the WG&F. A NEPA contractor has been selected to complete the work necessary for an Environmental Analysis (EA). Work on the EA began with public scoping meeting on 10/10. Implementation is targeted for 2014.

Mesa Mule Deer Matrix Mitigation Effort – The Sublette Mule Deer Project is progressing with data collection efforts on all of the proposed treatment sites completed. A contractor has

been selected (Mangi Environmental Group) to begin work on the NEPA and cultural work for the project. A time schedule has been developed to get the EA completed Spring 2013 with habitat improvement work commencing by Summer/Fall 2013. Public scoping has not yet been scheduled.

Mesa Water Project - The EA and FONSI/Decision Record for the Mesa Habitat Improvement project has been completed and is currently undergoing a 30 day appeal period. If no appeals are filed, drilling of a water well could be completed by mid-November of this year with project completion by next summer. Project includes construction of a small protected wetland area using overflow from the water troughs.

Mesa Fence Modification project - Wildlife-friendly fence work is commencing on the Mesa with signed fence agreements between the Wyoming Land Trust and landowners and agreements signed between the Wyoming Land Trust and BLM. About 100 miles of fence on the Mesa has been inventoried and fence conversion work has begun with work completion by 2013.

LaBarge/RMEF Land Acquisition – PFO entered into a Memorandum of Understanding to manage a key parcel for the RMEF which we will be pursuing acquisition of. Parcel is located between the Lake Mountain WSA and the Miller Mountain Special Management area.

Fontenelle Fire – The fire started at the end of June and burned a total of approximately 65,000 acres of which approximately 11,500 acres were on BLM. Some 25,000 acres of potentially high quality Lynx habitat between the FS and BLM were destroyed. Wyoming Game and Fish's Finnegan feed ground fell victim to the fire with structures and hay lost. BLM has completed and submitted its initial Burn Recovery Plan for emergency funding but will take a back seat to those fires where significant loss of Sage Grouse Critical habitat occurred. PFO lost very little SG critical habitat. Grazing will be suspended in the burn until recovery has occurred.

Snake River Parcels – PFO has made significant progress in bringing cooperators together to move on the disposal of BLM's Snake River parcels to the county, FS, and Wyoming Game and Fish. Each parcel was discussed and an interim management strategy was constructed. In addition, an MOU was put together and signed with the Snake River Fund for the management of the Wilson Bridge River Access point.

Scab Creek Trail – In coordination with the USFS, a 3-mile section of the Scab Creek trail on BLM and USFS were improved to address safety concerns.

Electrification of the Anticline – The BLM signed the Finding of no Significant Impact and Decision Notice for the Pinedale Anticline Electrification Project, Phase I on September 4, 2012 and granted Rocky Mountain Power (RMP) rights-of-way to build 17 miles of electric double-circuit 25kv distribution lines and eight miles of other distribution lines to provide power to eight

distinct locations on the south end of the Anticline, beginning just north of Paradise Road and proceeding south and east along the backbone of the Anticline to Highway 191. The decision also allows RMP to build approximately 5 miles of 69 kV transmission line from Highway 351 to the Boulder South County Road 23-106, a substation south of Highway 351 and west of the North Jonah Road, and approves a 10 mile re-route of the authorized Paradise 230 kV transmission line. The 230 kV line will be built from Highway 191 west to the Falcon Compressor area and then north along the backbone of the Anticline to Highway 351 parallel to the above mentioned 25 kV distribution line. Construction on the distribution lines is underway. The other components of the project (i.e. the substation, the 69 kV line, and transmission line) will be built in subsequent years.)

NPL EIS – BLM continues to work with a third party contractor and our cooperators to create the alternatives that will be considered in the EIS. We are also still working with DEQ and EPA to define what effect the recent EPA decision on ozone nonattainment area for Sublette County will have on the alternatives and schedule for the EIS. The completion schedule has been revised as a result of the air quality complexities. We are targeting signing the ROD in February of 2015.

LaBarge EIS – Proposal to drill 838 wells in the Big Piney – LaBarge area. Contractor is working on developing alternatives for the EIS. The EPA decision regarding non-attainment for the Upper Green River area, which includes the La Barge Project area, has affected the completion schedule. BLM is working with DEQ and EPA to resolve key details about how the nonattainment designation will be managed and what changes will be needed in the alternatives and the operators are in discussion with the DEQ to better understand how the non-attainment designation will shape their revised proposed action.

Denbury – Denbury's gas plant on Riley Ridge was scheduled to be online by the end of 2011 but they are experiencing difficulties and are not certain when it will be operational. Denbury has contacted us and several other BLM field offices to discuss building a CO2 pipeline from the Riley Ridge Unit to the Casper area. They have submitted the Right of Way application and the project will be managed out of the Rock Springs Field Office. In addition to the pipeline, the project will include building a sweetening plant and drilling a disposal well to dispose of the H2S gas somewhere near Denbury's existing plant. Originally the H2S and CO2 were both to be re-injected but Denbury now would like to separate the two gas components, re-inject only the H2S, and transport the CO2 for use in oil recovery projects on the other side of the state. Denbury has also submitted two "notices of staking" to the BLM in anticipation of drilling additional wells. Once the proposal has been clarified, BLM will be scoping the public for issues related to Denbury's plans.

Plains Exploration and Production Company (PXP) – PXP has reached a deal with The Trust for Public Land (TPL) whereby TPL will purchase the rights to the PXP leases in the Noble Basin and those leases will be retired. This terminates plans to drill the Eagle Prospect on US Forest Service managed lands in the Noble basin. BLM will be working with TPL regarding the lease retirements.

PAPO Project Funding “open period” - Revised PAPO 2013 project application information is on the PAPO website with a deadline of October 31, 2012 for potential 2013 funding. The PAPO Board will make final project funding decisions at its May 2013 meeting in Pinedale.

PADMS System Status - Met with USGS a number of times to discuss ‘tasks’ or new features for the PADMS database. We have tested most, if not all of the tasks in Beta, and they are nearly ready to ‘go live.’ We have also been working with contractors and companies to address data entry issues as they have arisen.

2012 PAPO reclamation monitoring – Reclamation monitoring has been a heavy focus this year. Quantitative and Qualitative monitoring was conducted on dozens of sites throughout the PAPA, and several areas of concern were identified. These areas of concern are being addressed with individual operators. A variety of meetings and field tours have also been conducted pursuant to this heightened focus.

While this year’s dry conditions have definitely affected reclamation response, not all sites have been equally effected. We are working to identify what the differences are in approach among the companies. There are some initial observations, which we are working to quantify, which seem to be producing the differing results, and we hope to communicate these differences and achieve better reclamation success.

Annual Drilling Plans, Anticline – At the annual planning meeting in February 2012, the BLM approved approximately 220 wells for the February 2012 – February 2013 period. Operators have submitted their initial plans for the February 2013 – February 2014 period to the BLM and we are conducting a preliminary review of those plans and scheduling individual meetings with the operators during the month of October to discuss them.

Well spud report as of October 1, 2012 - As of October 1, 2012 a total of 2,581 wells have been spud on the Anticline, 1,292 since the signing of the ROD in September 2008 and 177 thus far in 2012.

Staffing update

Supervisory Rangeland Management Specialist selected. Please welcome Kelley Roadifer to this new challenge. Kellie was previously a Planner in PFO.

James Evans, Petroleum Engineer, accepted the Petroleum Engineering position in the BLM’s Rock Springs Field Office. Mike McLaren will be coming to Pinedale this month to fill our Petroleum Engineer position. Mike is currently the Petroleum Engineer in our Kemmerer office and worked in the Pinedale Field Office for about 3 years before he left in 2009.

The PFO hired a Brooke Hocker under our Student Employee Program this past summer. Brooke is from Pinedale and is now attending the University of Wyoming seeking a degree in geology. She was assigned to address some issues with our mineral materials program. The mineral materials program will be handled out of the BLM Rock Springs Field Office from now on but we wanted everything to be in order before transitioning the program.

Our Assistant Field Manager for Resources has accepted a job with BLM in Oregon and we will be working to replace him this fall.

PAPO will be completing the replacement of the Data Manager position and working to hire a replacement reclamation specialist.